

**Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council Meeting (AISAC)
Tuesday, October 2, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Bill Werner (ADWR)	and Nursery Industry)
Brian McGrew (ADA)	Jeanette Fish (MCFB)
Brian Moorhead (SRP)	Jeffrey Myers (AZDA)
Chantal O'Brien (AGFD)	Joanne Roberts (ASP)
Cindy Copping (Cattle Growers; via teleconference)	John Brock (ASU)
Donald Butler, Co-Chair (ADA)	Kai Umeda (UofA, Cooperative Extension)
Doug Witte (ASLD)	Larry Riley (AGFD)
Ed Northam (Southwest Veg Management; Cooperative Weed management)	Marianne Meding (AGFD)
Elisabeth Lawaczek (ADHS)	Randall Kris (USFWS)
Fred Amator (AZ Crop Protection Assoc.)	Richard Brusca (ASDM)
Gary Russell (USDA APHIS)	Steve Ferrell, Co-Chair (AGFD)
Glenn Fahringer (Cave Creek; Landscape	Tom Klabunde (TNF)
	Tonya Norwood Pearson (AACD)

Call to Order

Brian McGrew called the Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council meeting to order at 1:05 pm at the Arizona Department of Agriculture conference room 206 located at 1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007. Brian introduced Arizona Department of Agriculture Director Donald Butler and Arizona Game and Fish Department Assistant Director Steve Ferrell, the Council Co-chairs.

Roll Call of Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council

The 4th Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council (Council) meeting commenced with Co-Chair Donald Butler conducting roll call.

Welcome & Introductions

Don Butler welcomed everyone and indicated that the next council meeting would be November 6 but there is no meeting place yet. Kai Umeda suggested the U of A Cooperative Extension Office for both the November and December meetings. Doug Witte told the group of an upcoming graduate seminar on November 15 by Dr. Yool. Seating is limited to thirty people and will be held in Tucson from 5:30-7:30 pm. Eight graduate students will be in attendance and the council members are hoping to get the students perspectives on what their vision of the invasive species center would look like. Doug is hoping to have a Leadership & Coordination work group meeting prior to the seminar on the 15th. Marianne said they are hoping to have the graduate students attend the Leadership and Coordination meeting so they have some exposure to what the council is doing. The seminar information will be posted on the Governor's webpage as the November date draws closer. Bill Werner asked about car pooling information and coordination on going to Tucson. Ethics training will be November 16 and council members will need to check the website for more information and how to register.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from September 6, 2007 was motioned by Glenn Fahringer and seconded by Fred Amator. The motion passed unanimously with one editorial correction on page 3.

Working Group Reports

Doug Witte, Co-Lead of the Leadership & Coordination work group, gave a progress report. He asked if the council had a chance to read the draft emailed to Council members by Marianne the previous week. Doug feels the Leadership & Coordination draft management plan is online with addressing the objectives, issues, recommendations and timelines. There is some overlap with recommendations made by the Research & Information work group regarding what a center for invasive species and rapid response grant fund will look like and where would the funding come from. There are also some issues in regards to grant programs and they will continue to discuss this. The work group feels it is 95% finished and will have continuing sessions now through January to fine tune most of these issues. There was a PowerPoint presentation on the group's thoughts of what a center for invasive species could look like. He focused on objective 5 talking about alternative strategies for a center for invasive species. The four alternatives from the draft are as follows:

- A - This is a “.gov” approach in which it is government organized and funded with state appropriated funds.
- B – The “.org. which is a 501C approach and would be funded mostly through donations.
- C – The “.edu” approach which is an academic focus exercise where schools or universities fund most of the budget through grants or government support.
- D – “.net” approach meaning a networking approach with and “in kind” funding source.

Doug described how the work group developed criteria by which to weigh each alternative and voted that alternative “D” was the most suitable alternative. Marianne noted the criterion was rated equally and each member that attended the meeting voted. Doug said this was a very complicated part of the group and will be a constant struggle between all work groups as they move towards the final draft. Bill asked about how each alternative would be funded and Doug's answers are noted above. Don sees both groups going down a parallel line with some crossover.

Kai Umeda, co-leader for the Research and Information Management work group then gave an overview of work group objectives and recommendations developed to date. The group focused on research most of the time and followed up by looking at grant programs, coordinating information management, and the role of a center for invasive species. Kai gave a PowerPoint presentation on the group's progress in regards to 14 issues and recommendations.

Don opened the floor for comments and questions. He indicated there is a need to streamline recommendations from the two work groups to eliminate redundancy and more closely align recommendations regarding a center for invasive species. Doug agreed and said L/C approached it from an administrative oversight and saw it separate when it started going technical. The common ground seems to be a need for a directory and a source of grant funds. Bill Werner indicated that there are several grant programs that have rigid match requirements so people need

to be flexible. Doug said not all federal funds can be matched with federal funds. Bill suggested making it easy for people to take money from here to match up with any federal dollars.

Steve Ferrell offered a comment on expanding the range of alternatives to include some that do not focus on a center for invasive species. He asked the question of what would happen if the Center does not materialize. He would like to see the working groups add a couple more of alternatives. Larry Riley thought it was a good suggestion and was wondering how we can think this through very carefully and pull the skill sets together that are needed.

Bill asked when public input should be sought. Doug indicated the need for the Leadership & Coordination work group to meet one more time to refine their final rough draft and would like to wait until after October 26 to get it out for public review. Don would like to wait for all four reports to be finished before putting it out for review. Doug expressed concern because the Council had decided at the first Council meeting to make the draft available for public input following completion of the first to strategic concepts (Leadership & Coordination; Research & Information Management). Marianne asked if the leads and co leads from each working group could meet to work on streamlining their recommendations. The group discussed this further and it was decided that the a draft would be reviewed by the Council following October 26th and will vote on at the November 6 meeting on whether to make the draft available for public comment. Doug mentioned there should be an abstract to go along with these reports. Kai, Chasa O'brien, Brian McGrew and Doug will be meeting prior to October 26.

Steve Ferrell again asked the groups to look at other alternatives and a good model to look at is the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA). They deal with these issues and do not have a Council or staff but they do it with about nineteen different committees. Each agency donates staff and includes seventeen western states including provinces. He suggested that maybe this Council will be the "committee" for invasive species. Doug said there will have to be money some where as there will be a need for data experts and he does not see any agencies wanting to step up to fund that. Glenn Fahringer expressed concern in that other entities have tried doing something on their own by funding it themselves. They are successful for a couple of years but eventually fall to the wayside. We need to make this a strong statement and show that this is important and that funding is needed to be successful. Steve noted that the Center is a great idea but be prepared if it does not go through. Is this group capable of doing something? AGFD will continue to work and be involved with invasive species on its own if there is no Council. Glenn said if we give the Governor's office a choice between volunteer basis or dollars, chances are they will chose the volunteers.

Larry asked the council for clarification of the public input process. The concept was to share what had been do so far with the public but the final approval comes down the Council's final recommendation the Governor. Joanne Roberts said the original plan was to have open houses for comments. Is the Council still planning on doing this as it would be nice to have direct contact with people? Doug has notified his contacts that there is a process going on and it can be followed on the Governor's webpage. The Council will meet on November 6, then officially post the reports on the webpage, then perhaps hold workshops. John Brock indicated that putting an "unfinished" product out may be confusing and suggested waiting until the process is further along to ask for public input. One suggestion was to not include a fiscal package. Ed Northam

pointed out that choosing an alternative that does not support a center is a different concept with what the Governor wrote in the Executive Order. Steve informed the Council that funding is not up to the Governor but legislation and the point he is trying to make is that funding could take many years. This is his reason for coming up with alternatives that do not include a center. Doug will take a look at WAFWA and try to contact someone associated with that group.

Elizabeth Lawaczeck indicated that regarding the process for evaluating the alternatives for a center for invasive species, she would like to see a larger range in the point scale used to score each alternative. Larry responded by saying he thought the criteria worked well for the groups needs, and that perhaps the Council could undertake a similar process whereby the criteria would be weighted appropriately. Marianne asked when would be a good time for the Council to prioritize the alternatives and recommended the next meeting. Larry said the exercise was to help the group crystallize their thoughts and conform to the request about what are the alternatives are for a center. This exercise was just a tool to reach a consensus. Doug made a motion to move wait to vote on taking the draft document to the public and pending a meeting with co team leaders in order to produce a streamlined document for Council discussion on November 6. The motion was seconded by Ed Northam. Richard Busca asked if the document could be emailed in enough time prior to the next meeting for review. Doug said it was the intent to try to get the draft emailed to all members at least one week prior to the November 6 meeting.

Fred Amator asked about if grants would be available first or will the Grant administrator be in position first. What is the sequence? Since there is no structure of a center for invasive species, it is yet to be determined. Fred suggested maybe we can find the money to hire someone from an existing agency to come in. Doug replied saying the money will have to come from many different sources.

Review of Statewide Invasive Species Management Plan Draft Charters and Timeline

Marianne asked the Council to review the next two charters in depth at their first group meeting and submit the approved charters with any additional changes at the November 6 meeting. The co-leads lead for the Anticipation and Outreach group will be Ty Gray (AGFD) and Kai Umeda (UofA Cooperative Extension). Co-leads for the Control and Management will be John Brock (ASU) and Joanne Roberts (ASP). Marianne will contact all absentee Council members to see which group they would like to participate on.

Marianne Asked Council members to identify on which work group they would like to participate. Responses were as follows:

Anticipation and Outreach: Ty Gray, Kai Umeda, Glenn Fahringer, Richard Brusca, Fred Amator, Cindy Coping, Larry Riley, Marianne Meding, Tonya Norwood-Pearson

Control and Management: Joanne Roberts, John Brock, Ed Northam, Doug Witte, Brian Moorhead, Gary Russell, Tom Klabunde, Bill Werner, Brian McGrew

Marianne asked the Council if there were any other members that should be invited to work group meetings. Dr. Kathryn Thomas, Alix Rogstad, and Bill McCloskey were mentioned.

Call to the Public

Don opened the floor to the public to see if there were issues or concerns to be discussed with Council. Marianne stated that there were no blue sheets.

Future Agenda Items

Doug would like to see a possible presentation by a grant person and maybe a presentation in March or April on marketing and outreach. Glenn suggested looking at the marketing group that helps the “Water use it Wisely” campaign and Larry mentioned the “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers” campaign.

The following agenda items were identified at previous meetings and may be considered for addition to future meeting agendas:

- Working group updates
- Presentation from Health Services (Elisabeth Lawaczek) on linkages between invasive species and human health (Craig Levy) at the November meeting.
- Presentation on Plant Diagnostic Network (Dr. Barry Pryor or Dr. Judy Brown) and Arizona Pest Management Center (Dr. AL Fournier) at the December meeting.
- Presentation from Ed Northam: Overview of Weed Management Plans.
- Presentation on cactus moths (Bruce Eilerts-ADOT).

Action Items

- Elizabeth and Kai to work on November and December presentations
- Control and Management work group to meet October 9
- Anticipation and Outreach work group to meet October 11
- Meeting with the leads and co-leads from Leadership & Coordination and Research and Information Management work groups prior to October 26
- Management Plan draft to Council by October 26
- November 6 Council to review the recommendations and decide if the drafts with an overview and abstract are good to go make available to the public.

Meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.